

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00546 281633Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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O 281525Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6972
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0546

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INFORMING FRONT LINE AND PF OF PRETORIA AND
SALISBURY ALKS

REF: (A) STATE 101529; (B) STATE 105935; (C) LONDON 06471

1. UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I MET WITH MUGABE FOR AN HOUR THIS
MORNING. EDGAR TEKERE JOINED US FOR THE LAST HALF HOUR.

2. LEWEN MADE THE DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED REFTELS. MUGABE TOOK
EXTENSIVE NOTES, SEEMED BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN WHAT DR.
OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE HAD TOLD THE SALISBURY GRUP, I.E.,
TICKS F, G AND H OF TALKING POINTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00546 281633Z

3. WHEN LEWEN FINISHED, MUGABE PAUSED A MOMENT, THEN COMMENTED:
"IT APPEARS WE NOW AT AN IMPASSE." DESPITE FACT THAT DR. OWEN
HAD TOLD HIM THAT NONE OF THE PARTIES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE
A VETO ON THE NEOGIATING PROCESS, HE SAID IT NOW LOOKED AS IF
DR. OWEN HAD GIVEN THE SALISBURY GROUP A VETO ON WHETHER THERE
WOULD BE AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE. THIS WAS REGRETTABLE. LEWEN
AND I REPLIED THAT WHILE APRIL 25 STATEMENT WAS DISCOURAGING,

OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS DO NOT VIEW THE SALISBURY STATEMENT AS A CATEGORIC REJECTION OF PARTICIPATION IN AN ALL PARTIES MEETING AND IT IS THE INTENTION OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. I SAID THAT MUZOREWA'S TRIP TO BOTSWANA INDICATED THAT AT LEAST THE BISHOP SAW THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT OR ENDORSEMENT FOR HS ACTIVITIES, AND THAT, IN MY OPINION, THIS WAS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. I ALSO SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO NAMIBIA MIGHT PROVIDE RENEWED IMPETUS FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN RHODESIA. HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED BY MUGABE WHAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD DO IF THE SALISBURY GROUP CONTINUED TO SAY NO TO THE ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE, WE CONFESSED WE DID NOT KNOW.

4. MY COMMENT ON MUZOREWA DID NOT ELICIT ANY COMMENT, BUT THE REFERENCE TO NAMIBIA DID. MUGABE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN NEW YORK AND IF NUJOMA HAD AS YET STATED SWAPO'S POSITION ON THE CG PROPOSAL. HE ALSO ASKED IF WE COULD SUPPLY HIM WITH THE TEXT OF OUR NAMIBIA PROPOSAL, WHICH I HAVE SINCE DONE.

5. ALSO DURING DISCUSSION, MUGABE SAID THAT HE CONTINUES TO SENSE THAT DR. OWEN IS "DRIFTING AWAY" FROM THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL, AND THAT THE "AMERICANS WILL DO WHAT THE BRITISH WANT THEM TO DO." HE THOUGHT DR. OWEN MIGHT NOW BE LOOKING ABOUT FOR AN EXCUSE TO BE DONE WITH THE AAP. MUGABE SAID THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE REASON WHY DR. OWEN HAD CHARACTERIZED THE PF'S COUNTERPROPOSAL IN DAR AS CONSTITUTING A "FUNDAMENTAL" CHANGE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00546 281633Z

AAP. MUGABE DENIED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. IN SEEKING TO REASSURE MUGABE ON THE AAP, LEWEN AND I REFERRED HIM TO OUR TALKING POINTS, WHICH REPORTED THAT DR. OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE, WHEN IN SALISBURY, HAD TOLD THE SALISBURY GROUP THAT WHILE OTHER PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PF, NO DOUBT WOULD COME TO THE ALL PARTIES MEETING WITH THEIR OWN PROPOSALS, THE UK AND US WOULD BASE THEIR POSITION ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AAP. I SAID THAT THIS REMAINED OUR POSITION.

5. COMMENT. MUGABE WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY, BUT SEEMED TO BE MORE SUBDUED AND PENSIVE THAN ON THE HALF DOZEN OR SO OTHER OCCASIONS I HAVE SEEN HIM IN PAST SIX MONTHS. IT STRICTLY MY SUBJECTIVE JUDGMENT, BUT I WAS LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT MUGABE MAY BE WORRIED LEST WE DECIDE NOT TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS, IN WHICH HE INDICATED TODAY HE STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED. MUGABE SAID HE WOULD BE IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO IN CASE WE HAD ANY DESIRE GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM.
DE PREE

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